

1 **Wilton Sewer Commission – Feb 13, 2014/rescheduled 2/20**

2 **MINUTES DRAFT APPROVED 3/6/14**

3 The Wilton Sewer Commission meeting of Feb. 13th was cancelled due to the snow-
4 storm and was rescheduled on Feb. 20th at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Courtroom and
5 Building Inspector's office. Present were Chairman Tom Herlihy, Commissioner Tom
6 Schultz, Clerk Joanna K Eckstrom, member of public Charlie McGettigan.

7 * **Call to order** Chairman Herlihy called meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

8 * **Public Input/Comment** - no public input or comments offered.

9 * **Review and Approve Minutes of January 9, 2014** – Approval of these minutes is
10 deferred until later date (Feb 28th) when Mr. Carter is present. Mr. Herlihy did not attend
11 on Jan 9th and could not vote on minutes.

12 * **Accounts Payable and YTD Expenses** – Confirm expenses at year end 2013 per
13 report from Pam Atwood (2/5/14) – commission will seek clarification about why bond
14 expenses are included in 2013 operating expenses. No ytd January 2014 expense
15 report was available.

16 * **Accounts Receivable, YTD Income** – Confirm 2013 Income – there is still some
17 question about 2013 income. There is no ytd January 2014 income report. Abatement
18 and bill adjustment requests from Ron Caswell (Burns Hill Rd triplex) and Joan Lemire
19 (10 Main Street) question of overcharges will be researched by Jane Farrell and Mike
20 Bergeron (number of water / sewer units at 10 Main St) before any decisions are made.

21 * **2014 Budget** Confirm budget request \$280,862 expense – this IS the amount that is
22 on the final budget for the Town Report.

23 * **Rate Increase** - consider options for rate increase. Given that 2013 income is
24 approximately \$12K less than expenses, excluding bond related expenses, and that the
25 2014 expense projection (including bond payment) has increased, there will be a
26 shortfall again in 2014 – user rates must be increased to cover the shortfall. There was
27 some discussion about using bond surplus and 'easing' in the rate increase over several
28 years. Ms. Eckstrom said that even though the surplus can be used to offset a rate in
29 crease, she doesn't see any 'emergency' money in the budget. Also, Wilton's share of
30 fees paid to Milford increased in 2013; while these increases are included in the 2014
31 proposed expenses, who knows what the actual charges be at the end of 2014 – (the

January 2014 bill was \$12,527 – bills vary from month to month). She referred to Granite State Rural Water Association's template showing that an annual sewer rate of \$360 (\$90 per quarter) would be needed to meet the 2014 proposed expense. As a user, she would rather have any increase 'phased' in rather than be hit with a big increase all at once.

Commissioners Herlihy and Schultz agreed that 2013 income and expense need to be confirmed and that commission will meet on Friday, February 28 at 3:00 PM (subsequently changed to 3:30 PM) when all three commissioners could review options. If any rate increase is to be made, there needs to be a public hearing beforehand. (The next regular billing period ends March 31st.)

* **Update Pump Station Labor and Safety** – nothing new

* **Update – interdepartmental business** - nothing new

* **Update –Milford-Wilton Inter-municipal Wastewater Agreement** – nothing new

* **Town Report – submission updated to reflect passing of Paul Desrochers** – At Mr. Carter's request (by phone to Mr Herlihy) Ms Eckstrom will write note / letter to Paul's family and send Town Report to them. Mr. Schultz has Desrochers contact info.

* **PSA – Sewer dos and don'ts** - Ms. Eckstrom will modify this document for website and as insert for next bill. Copy to be available at next regular meeting.

* **Other business** – Abatements / adjustments previously discussed. Mike Bergeron is involved because he will do physical count of water meters / services at 10 Main St.

An Equipment Rate sheet from the highway department that was approved by the Selectmen on January 20, 2014 was added to the file.

Next Meeting: March 6th

There being no other business, Mr. Schultz moved, Mr. Herlihy seconded to adjourn at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk